

300 COMMENTARY ON MACAULAY'S
HISTORY

tion of Macaulay's History.¹ When the news of the King's arrest reached London the council of peers who had assumed authority for the purpose of preserving order sent Ailesbury to Faversham to take charge of the King and to persuade him to return to London. He found him in a lawyer's house at Faversham, with a sort of guard of sailors round him, and some of the deputy lieutenants of the county acting as head gaolers.

The King was sitting in a great chair, his hat on, and his beard being much grown, and resembled the picture of his royal father at the pretended High Court of Justice. He rose up to meet me ; I bent my knee, not being able to kneel by reason of my jack-boots. He took me to the window with an air of displeasure, indeed quite contrary to what I expected, and said, ' You were all Kings when I left London/ I could not dissemble, but spoke my mind in these terms. ' Sir, I expected another sort of welcome after the great dangers I ran last night by repairing to you/ I know', said the King, ' you meant well as to your particular/ I replied, ' It is certainly so, and give me leave to tell your Majesty that by your going away without leaving a Commission of Regency, but for our care and vigilance the City of London might have been in ashes ; but the Lord Mayor and City respecting us, all was kept calm/ In a calm/ His countenance became more serene, and he then told me he was glad to see me, and sorry for the danger I had run,

and then told me that the deputy lieutenants
were so saucy
that morning as to ask him reason why he had
sent letters
sealed to London. The room was filled with
men, women
and children, and talking as if they had been
at a market,
but I silenced them. . . . Dinner being ready,
I asked him
if he would be served with ceremony. He
said, yes, if I
could hold it out, for fatigued I was very much.
. . . I ob-
served his shoulders moved much : I asked him
if he was
indisposed. He told me, ' No ; but I hope
you can give

¹ 3rd Ser., vi (1864), i, 21, 41, Si ; cf. v (1864),
391.